



Department of Public Instruction for Ontario, Dominion of Canada,

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 14th September, 1869.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that a letter (a copy of which is appended) has been received by this Department from the Government Board of Education for the Colony of Victoria, Australia. As the arrangements made with your House on behalf of the Department, for the supply of the Public Schools of this Province, with Library and Prize Books, and other requisites, was in its nature confidential, I do not feel at liberty, without your knowledge and concurrence, to comply with the request contained in the accompanying letter.

I think it would be better for you to communicate with the Secretary of the Board of Education at Melbourne direct, and make any arrangement with him which the Board may desire, for the supply of the Schools in Victoria, with Books and School Requisites, as in this Province

I trust that, as the Australian Board desires to avail itself of the advantages derived by the arrangement made by this Department with your House, you will endeavour to meet its wishes as far as possible.

If you have not already done so, I will thank you to send me your latest Trade List and Catalogue.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. McPherson

To

Publishers

R

ti

28

66

66

“

66

1

2

..

66

“

21

to

of

11

P

22

1

12

1

The following is a copy of the letter from the Board of Education in Victoria, Australia:—

Education Office,

MELBOURNE, 15th June, 1869.

REVEREND SIR,

The attention of the Board of Education of Victoria has been called to the arrangements made by the Deputy Superintendent of Education for Ontario, when in England, for the supply of Books and School Requisites, as stated in the Annual Report on Education, pages 24-26, for the year 1867.

In that Report it is stated that "after sundry conferences and explanations (with several of the Publishers), they were at length induced, with two or three exceptions, to agree to an additional discount for cash, of $2\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $7\frac{1}{2}$, or 10 per cent, (as the case might be), over and above their former rates of discount allowed to the Department. Five per cent. was the average additional discount which I was thus enabled to secure for the Department, together with the advantage, in most cases, as heretofore, of the old books, viz.: 7 as $6\frac{1}{2}$, 13 as 12, or 25 as 24."

Again, it is remarked further on, that "apart from these personal characteristics of individual publishers, the publishing trade of Britain seems to have divided itself into two great branches, 1st, the publishers of miscellaneous books of all kinds, the copy-right of which has either expired, or has never existed in England; and 2nd, those who chiefly confine themselves to the publication of copy-right books. There are several intermediate degrees between these two main divisions, but they can be generally classified under either head. With the former class, who had little or no copy-right to pay, I was enabled, with one or two exceptions, to make highly advantageous terms; with the latter, who had copy-right to pay on nearly every one of their books, I did not of course expect to do as well. There were, however, some gratifying exceptions, while the freshness, originality and excellence of their publications quite made up for the difference in the cost of their books."

Again,—“Without giving in this Report the specific terms, which I was enabled, on behalf of the Department, to make with the various publishers, (most of them being special and confidential), I think it but justice to those who acted liberally to our Public Schools to classify them as follows:”—

With reference to the above, I am desired by the Board of Education to express their gratification at seeing that such satisfactory arrangements have been made in regard to this matter, and to state that as this Board are unable to adopt a similar plan of sending an agent to Europe because of the great distance, it would be conferring a great obligation upon them if you gave them the benefit of your Agent's assistance, by furnishing a list of the prices paid to publishers by your Department, and any other information on the subject, which would prove valuable to the cause of Education in this Colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) B. F. KANE,
Secretary.

P.S.—It will be understood that, if desired, any information furnished to this Board will be treated as confidential.

(Signed) B. F. KANE.

REV. E. RYERSON,

Chief Superintendent of Education,

TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

1869. Ryerson.